



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DECEMBER 7, 2012

DECEMBER IS NATIONAL DRUNK AND DRUGGED DRIVING PREVENTION MONTH

FREDERICK, MD -- December is designated as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month (often referred to as 3D Month). Every day, almost 30 people in the United States die in motor vehicle crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver. This amounts to one death every 48 minutes, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. 3D Month reminds us to "Designate before we Celebrate" and encourages safe and sober driving.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), there were 24 fatal crashes in Frederick County in 2010; 13 (54%) of these fatal crashes involved an alcohol-impaired driver. Furthermore, of the 13 alcohol-involved fatal crashes, 5 (38%) involved young people between the ages of 16 and 24. These statistics indicate that alcohol-impaired driving presents a serious public safety issue in Frederick County.

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To prevent impaired driving this holiday season, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) suggest the follow tips:

- Designate a sober driver before the celebrations begin.
- Never serve alcohol to those under the age of 21.
- Plan safe parties that include plenty of non-alcoholic drink options for guests and stop serving alcoholic beverages the last hour of the gathering.
- Be prepared to get everyone home safe in case your plans or individual circumstances change.

If you suspect someone is driving while impaired, callers are encouraged to dial **#77** from their cellular phones or call **911**. Additionally, if you are concerned about a suspected party involving underage drinking or drug use in Frederick County, please contact the **Underage Party Tip Hotline at 301-600-1318**. Give the address of the party, the time and date. Callers are not required to give their names and all information is confidential.

Finally, citizens are encouraged to “get involved!” The Frederick County Health Department, in collaboration with the Asian American Center of Frederick is pleased to announce the formation of the Frederick County – Alcohol Prevention Initiative (FC-API) Coalition. This is a community-based coalition comprised of community and agency members aimed at reducing the misuse of alcohol by youth and young adults in Frederick. If you would like more information about this initiative or would like to join the coalition, please contact Laura LaMotte at 301-600-3390 or via email at llamotte@frederickcountymd.gov. The FC-API coalition is hosting a gathering on Sunday, December 9th at the Bernard Brown Building located at 629 North Market Street Frederick, MD 21701 from 1 to 4 pm.

For more information about preventing drinking and driving, visit www.madd.org. Help keep Frederick County safe this holiday season!

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